

## Aberrations of *Lysandra coridon* Poda (Lep., Lycaenidae) and Other Species, Summer 1976

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Extremely high temperatures during the first half of the summer once more played havoc with the time-table and must have upset the arrangements of many entomologists. A visit of a week to the Dorset area had been planned by Mr. Middleton and myself and this had to be brought forward by ten days to coincide with the main emergence of *L. coridon*, the first males having been observed on 4th July, and by the following weekend they were out in numbers. The emergence continued over a longer period than last year, freshly emerged specimens being observed well into the second week of August. It seems likely that the species would have appeared even earlier but for the very cold weather during March. My records show a minimum temperature of not more than 2°C. on 26 nights, and of these 12 were well below freezing. By the end of the month both plant and insect life were well behind schedule.

The majority of our aberrations of *L. coridon* were taken during the second and third weeks of July, after that the species seemed to revert to "type". Melanism was prevalent and several *melaina* were taken and a number of *marginata* observed. The *fowleri* forms appeared less frequent than last year, Mr. Middleton and myself having to be content with one specimen each although both on the same day. This was compensated for by a number of beautiful *striata* aberrations and a selection of these are shown on the plate. Several other varieties deserve mention: one of these is a female *fulvescens* which would not show up in black-and-white. The ground colour is a rich orange clay colour, it is also *obsoleta* and being a very large specimen we have added *major* to its titles. Other named forms include a male *grisea* upperside, a male *grisea-caeca* underside, *ultraviridescens* and a *postimpar* female with an area of blue on left hindwing. Mr. Middleton captured the specimens figs. 1, 4, 10 and 12, the remainder were taken by the author. All are named from Bright & Leeds.

The very hot weather had its effect on a number of other species, notably *Lycaena phlaeas* Linn. which was very abundant in the second brood. This emergence lasted a long time, fresh specimens being observed well into August. Many were heavily suffused resembling the form *fuscae* Robson which predominates in the second brood in some of the warmer countries of southern Europe. Mr. Middleton captured some fine examples of this suffused form while the author took two hindwing *obsoleta* Tutt, one of these being an extreme forewing aberration. The majority of the *phlaeas* aberrations were captured while at rest on the flowers of ragwort around the Boldre area on the outskirts of the New Forest.

*Hipparchia semele* Linn. produced specimens of both sexes with a ground colour of rich orange, similar to the sub-

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species found in some of the Mediterranean countries. We shared the honours in taking two female *postradiata* Frohawk aberrations of *Maniola jurtina* Linn. and observed a number of others with the same tendency. Finally, Mr. Middleton took a freshly emerged specimen of *Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda with white ground colour, an extreme example of ab. *pallida* Tutt. Altogether a wonderful year for aberrations, and from reports received shared by many of our entomological friends.

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PHYLLOCNISTIS XENIA HERING — ITS FOODPLANT AND LIFE HISTORY. — The purpose of this note is to add detail to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton's interesting paper (*Ent. Rec.*, **88**: 161-163). Though Hering states that *P. xenia* mines white poplar (*Populus alba*), the mined leaves in his herbarium so named are, in fact, of grey poplar (*P. canescens*). White poplar is more common than grey poplar in the coastal area of East Kent where *P. xenia* occurs and I have searched it in several localities without finding any trace of the mines of *P. xenia*. The evidence is that this species is restricted to grey poplar.

The mine of *P. xenia* has already been described in our literature in a paper written by Dr. S. Adamczewski while he was working at the British Museum (Natural History) immediately after the war (*Entomologist*, **80**: 135). He had found the mines near Warsaw in 1943. Following current European practice, he, like Hering, named the foodplant *P. alba*.

Adamczewski describes the mine as "very beautiful". I would go further and call it the most beautiful mine I have ever seen, especially when in the young terminal leaves of saplings which it prefers; the dark line of frass shows up vividly against the silvery background of the epidermal mine describing patterns of elegant symmetry. Unfortunately the leaves soon turn black when pressed for the herbarium.

Continental writers state that *P. xenia* is bivoltine (Hering, v-ix in two generations; Adamczewski, vi and ix-x). My first visit was made on 4.x.74 and on that date only old mines were in evidence. My second visit was on 11.vii.75 when mines were numerous in all stages of development. Further study is needed to find out whether we have one prolonged generation or two in this country. We also need to know whether *P. xenia*, like its congeners, overwinters as an adult.

Comparison between the mines of *P. xenia* and *Phyllocnistis labyrinthella* (Bjerkander) in the Hering herbarium has convinced me that they constitute two distinct species. I wonder if the larvae have ever been compared. That of *P. xenia* is pale yellow with the head and prothoracic plate of transparent, colourless chitin. That of *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* (Stephens) is pale green; like *P. xenia*, it has a colourless, transparent head but the prothoracic plate bears a black, more or less semi-circular marking. Possibly the larva of *P. labyrinthella* is equally distinctive. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.